U.S. News & World Report ranks UK Chandler Hospital among nation’s best


“The elite hospitals on U.S. News and World Report’s rankings are nationally known as the place to go when a patient is in need of highly skilled, complex care.”

– Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs

For the first time, three of UK’s programs are recognized by the magazine – a reflection of the breadth and depth of care delivered at UK. They are gynecology (27); ear, nose and throat (41); and cancer (46). These programs will be featured in upcoming issues of Vital Signs to spotlight efforts that helped contribute to these prestigious rankings.

“Most patients can receive care at their local hospital, where they are closest to support from loved ones. When more complex care is necessary, patients in Kentucky have the peace of mind that they do not need to travel beyond the state line,” said Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs. “They can receive nationally recognized, highly skilled care right here in Kentucky at UK Chandler Hospital.”

“Our ranked programs are testaments to our growing momentum that will help UK reach Top 20 status among the nation’s universities;” Dr. Karpf added. “This is good for UK, it’s good for Kentucky and, most importantly, for families and patients.”

UK Chandler Hospital is the only Lexington hospital to make the list and one of only three in Kentucky. The recognition from U.S. News & World Report is the most recent of several national distinctions earned by UK Chandler Hospital. In March, the hospital was ranked by Solucient as among the nation’s top 100 hospitals and one of the top 15 major academic medical centers. A year prior, Solucient ranked UK Chandler Hospital among the nation’s Top 100 Performance Improvement Leaders, which are noted for having faster and more consistent organization wide improvement than most other teaching hospitals during the past five consecutive years. Solucient has been identifying America’s top performing hospitals since 1993 and is well-known among the health care industry.

Chandler trauma center receives prestigious verification

The trauma center at UK Chandler Hospital has been verified for the fifth time as a Level 1 center by the American College of Surgeons’s (ACS) Committee on Trauma. The achievement recognizes the center’s dedication to providing the highest level of care for the most seriously injured adult and pediatric patients.

“Very rigorous regulations that trauma centers must meet for this distinction. We are proud of our efforts and of the service we provide to thousands of Central and Eastern Kentuckians.”
– Lisa Fryman, trauma nurse coordinator at UK Chandler Hospital

UK doctors and nurses treated nearly 3,000 trauma patients. To better accommodate that patient volume, the Emergency Department in the new UK Chandler Hospital – with a footprint the size of a football field – will open in 2011 offering separate entrances and waiting rooms for adults and children, private treatment rooms, private consult rooms and six trauma bays to help patients feel more comfortable while being attended. The new area will also have dedicated lab space, convenient access to the interior of the main hospital and shuttle service from the new parking garage being constructed on S. Limestone.

New hospital emergency codes in effect

UK Chandler Hospital recently adopted new overhead announcement emergency codes endorsed and recommended for all state hospitals by the Kentucky Hospital Association’s (KHA) Emergency Preparedness Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Code</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Old UK Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code Blue and hospital area</td>
<td>Medical emergency (adult or pediatric)</td>
<td>Code 500 and hospital area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code Yellow – Standby</td>
<td>Disaster plan activation (internal or external)</td>
<td>Alert 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code Yellow – Complete</td>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Green Grass</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Based on the recommendation of a security consultant, UK Chandler Hospital will also adopt the Code Pink announcement since it is a nationally recognized code for infant or child abduction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Code</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Old UK Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code Pink (w/ qualifiers such as “3-year-old male” or “infant female”)</td>
<td>Infant or child abduction</td>
<td>Code Teddy Bear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certain types of announcements for emergency situations that need to be understood by both staff and visitors will be stated clearly and not via code. An example would be a tornado warning, where staff would need to take action to protect patients and visitors would need to move to designated safe areas inside the hospital complex.

Any questions regarding the hospital’s new emergency codes may be directed to Sharon Berry, hospital safety officer, at 323-5734.

Briefs from the colleges

Dentistry

John Mink, DDS, professor, pediatric dentistry, has received the 2007 Presidential Citation Award from the Kentucky Dental Association (KDA) in recognition for his outstanding contribution to both the dental health of Kentuckians and the KDA.

John Mink, DDS, left, receives his award from Dr. Andy Elliott, a 1983 graduate of the College of Dentistry and outgoing president of the KDA.

Medicine

Haist appointed to NBME committee

Steven Haist, MD, professor and residency program director, has been appointed as a representative to the National Board of Medical Examiners’ (NBME) Test Committee. He already serves on the NBME’s United States Medical Licensing Examination™ Step 1 Committee and as chair of the USMLE Step 1 Physiology Committee.

Schumacher chairs commission

Mitzi Schumacher, PhD, associate professor, behavioral science, has begun a two-year term as chair of the UK President’s Commission on Women. She will lead the commission in advancing the status of women at the university through enhanced focus on the recruitment of women faculty, ongoing attention to the safety of women students, faculty and staff and efforts to improve the overall campus climate for women.
Baretta R. Casey, MD

Dr. Casey, director of the UK Center for Excellence for Rural Health in Hazard, has been installed as the new president of the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians where she plans to address Kentucky’s shortage of family physicians and improve communication among family medicine colleagues across the state.

Mary Kay Roark

Roark has been named administrator of the Markey Cancer Foundation where she will manage day-to-day operations and ensure that donor contributions continue to support cancer research and caring treatment for patients at the Markey Cancer Center.

Terrill “Leo” Myers Jr., NCT

Myers has been voted Nursing Technician of the Year by his peers at Markey Cancer Center for his compassionate and thoughtful manner with patients and co-workers.

Suzanne Springate

Springate has been named director of customer service for UK HealthCare. Formerly the patient care manager at Markey Cancer Center, Springate was the 2006 UK Chandler Hospital Employee of the Year.

Christopher G. Walling

Walling, clinical program administrator, Markey Cancer Center Hematology Program, recently raised over $4,600 for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society to become runner-up in the organization’s 2007 Man & Woman of the Year campaign. The money Walling raised is enough to provide a one-month supply of medication to 40 children or reimburse a family’s medical expenses for a year.